

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4710

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DISTO

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM CCD

SUBJECT: CCD-PNE EXPERTS'S MEETING, '7)6 16

SUMMARY: IN SESSION JULY 16 US EXPERTS ANSWERED SEVERAL JAPANESE QUESTIONS ON PROBLEMS THAT ARE DELAYING REALIZATION OF PNE BENEFITS, DISTINGUISHABILITY OF PNE DEVICES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR PNE'S, AND ADEQUACY, FROM ARMS CONTROL VIEW, OF METHODS FOR PROVIDING PNE BENEFITS ONLY THROUGH NWS
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SERVICES. ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE NOTED HIS COUNTRY'S

DESIRE TO COMPLETE FOR NON-NUCLEAR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH PNE'S AND SUGGESTED SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL PNE CONTROL, SUCH AS A PNE "WORLD BANK" RUN BY IAEA, WITH ONLY PNE'S OF GENERAL INTEREST TO WORLD COMMUNITY TO BE ALLOWED. END SUMMARY.

1. INFORMAL PNE EXPERTS MEETING CONTINUED AFTERNOON OF JULY 16. GIVAN (US) INTRODUCED US EXPERTS DUFF AND IFFT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY JAPANESE AT PREVIOUS EXPERTS SESSION (REFTEL). QUESTIONS HAD BEEN REPHRASED TO SOME EXTEND FROM ORIGINAL FORMULATIONS THAT HAD BEEN SHOWN EARLIER TO US EXPERTS. THIS WAS DONE IN EFFORT TO MEET CONCERN OF US EXPERTS THAT QUESTIONS MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS SANCTIONING PROLIFERATION UNDER GUISE OF PNE'S

QUESTIONS AND SUMMARY OF US RESPONSES FOLLOW:

(A) WHAT, APART FROM PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND WEAPONS IMPLICATIONS, ARE THE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS FOR ACTUAL REALIZATION OF PNE'S? DUFF MADE GENERAL POINT THAT, ASIDE FROM THESE CONSIDERATIONS, MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS ARE THOSE INVOLVING DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL PNE APPLICATIONS TO PROVE THEIR TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND ECONOMIC UTILITY, AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT APPLICATIONS CAN BE PERFORMED WITH RELIABILITY. PNE'S MAY ALSO RAISE SERIOUS LEGAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY AND POSSIBLE LTBT VIOLATIONS. HE REFERRED JAPANESE TO IAEA WORK ON THESE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PNE'S, NOTING THAT FOCUS OF CCD MEETING IS ON ARMS CONTROL ASPECTS OF PNE'S.

(B) ARE THERE ANY PNE'S WHICH CANNOT BE TURNED DIRECTLY INTO WEAPONS? SPECIFICALLY, WHAT ARE ARMS CONTROL IMPLICATIONS OF LASER FUSION? DUFF SAID LASER FUSION RESEARCH IS OF GREAT SCIENTIFIC INTEREST WORLD-WIDE AND MAY BE FUTURE SOURCE OF POWER. IN US AND ELSEWHERE, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THESE PROGRAMS ARE GENERALLY UNCLASSIFIED. LASER FUSION RESEARCH DATA IS OF ONLY LIMITED INCREMENTAL USEFULNESS FOR WEAPONS DESIGN CAPABILITIES. FOR THIS REASON A LASER FUSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVICE AIMED AT POWER PRODUCTION OR FOR PURELY SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, AS DESCRIBED IN US STATEMENT ON LASER FUSION PRESENTED AT NPT REVCON, IT NOT CONSIDERED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WITHIN MEANING OF THE NPT, SO VERIFICATION OF SUCH WORK DOES NOT BECOME AN ISSUE. DUFF THEN READ THIS STATEMENT, AND MADE IT AVAILABLE, IN RESPONSE TO NETHERLANDS REQUEST.

(C) WHAT IS US REACTION TO THE SUGGESTION THAT AN INTERNATIONAL BODY SHOULD DETERMINE WHEN PNE TECHNOLOGY HAS REACHED THE POINT WHEN IT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE UNDER NPT ARTICLE B DUFF SAID DECISION WHETHER PNE TECHNOLOGY HAD REACHED POINT OF COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY WOULD REQUIRE CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN POTENTIAL PROVIDERS AND POTENTIAL USERS OF PNE SERVICES WITHIN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK. HE NOTED THAT EXTENSIVE PUBLISHED PNE DATA AND IAEA PNE PANEL DISCUSSIONS PROVIDE ADEQUATE BASIS FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO JUDGE STATUS OF PNE TECHNOLOGY FOR THEMSELVES, WHILE PRESENT PNE MECHANISMS IN IAEA SECRETARIAT AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS PROVIDE ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF PNE SERVICES.

(D) WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TERM "WEAPON" IN THE US WORKING PAPER? IFFT STRESSED THAT THIS IS A QUESTION OF LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE AND US EXPERTS WERE NOT PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD FORMAL DEFINITION. HOWEVER, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING IN THE US SPECIALISTS VIEW THE GENERAL USAGE OF TERM REFERS TO AN INSTRUMENT OF ANY KIND THAT CAN BE USED IN HOSTILITIES. A NUCLEAR WEAPON COULD THEREFORE BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR USE IN HOSTILITIES AND WHICH USES A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR ITS EFFECT. SINCE ALL EXPLOSIVE DEVICES FOR PNE APPLICATIONS ARE TRANSPORTABLE, ANY PNE IS POTENTIALLY USABLE, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT OPTIMALLY, AS A WEAPON.

(E) CAN PNE DEVICES BE DIVIDED INTO SOPHISTICATED DEVICES OF THE SORT REQUIRED FOR MOST ACTUAL APPLICATIONS AND THE CRUDER SORT ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND IN THE VERY EARLY STAGES OF A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IFFT SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TERMS OF ARMS CONTROL IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW SUCH A DIVISION COULD BRING US CLOSER TO A SOLUTION TO THE PNE PROBLEM. ONE CANNOT ASSUME THAT A MORE SOPHISTICATED PNE DEVICE WOULD NECESSARILY BE MORE USEFUL AS A WEAPON, OR THAT ITS TESTING WOULD NECESSARILY PROVIDE MORE WEAPONS-RELATED INFORMATION THAN A LESS SOPHISTICATED PNE DEVICE. THE EXTENT TO WHICH A PARTICULAR PNE PROGRAM COULD ADD TO THE MILITARY CAPABILITY OF A STATE WOULD BE DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT STATES. IT WOULD ALSO DEPEND, FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, ON ANY CONSTRAINTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING THAT WERE IN EFFECT.

(F) CAN REALISTIC METHODS OF CONTROL BE IMPLEMENTED TO LIMIT PROVISION OF PNE'S TO THE NPT

ARTICLE V TYPE OF MECHANISM? IF SUCH METHODS ARE NOT
ACHIEVABLE, ARE WE PROVIDING ADEQUATLY FOR ARMS CONTROL
IMPLICATIONS OF PNE'S? IFFT SAID WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
THAT PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE V PROVIDE THE
APPROPRIATE MEANS BY WHICH POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF PNE'S
CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NNWS. IN OUR VIEW THIS APPRAOCH
IS FAR BETTER THAN ATTEMPTING TO DEVICE METHODS WHICH
WOULD EFFECTIVELY PREVENT ANY MILITARY BENEFITS TO NNWS
ENGAGED IN INDIGENOUS PNE PROGRAMS. THE NETHERLANDS

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

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REPRESENTATIVE AND THE US WORKING PAPER POINTED OUT THE

SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND PROLIFERATION IMPLICATIONS OF
SUCH INDIGENOUS PNE PROGRAMS.

2. DI BERNARDO (ITALY) EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF JAPANESE
EXPERT IMAI'S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSIONS AND
INTRODUCED ITALIAN EXPERTS AMATO AND SABATINI. HE
NOTED THAT ITALY DOES NOT ANTICIPATE USE OF PNE'S ON ITS
TERRITORY, BUT ITALY WANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITION
FOR THE BUSINESS POSSIBILITIES ACCOMPANYING PROVISION
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OF PNE SERVICES. HE NOTED THE REDUCTION IN RECENT
YEARS IN AMBIENT RADIOACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,
DESPITE CONTINUATION OF NUCLEAR TESTING, AND SAID ONE
SHOULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PNE APPLICATIONS REQUIRING
ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF EXPLOSIONS AND THOSE NEEDING A
LARGE NUMBER OF SHOTS. HE BELIEVED LASER FUSION SHOULD
NOT BE CONSIDERED UNDER PNE'S. SINCE A BAN ON PNE'S WAS
NOT LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED AND SATISFACTORY PNE VERIFI-
CATION SCHEMES HAVE NOT BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD, HE
SUGGESTED SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SUCH AS A
WORLD BANK OF PNE'S RUN BY THE IAEA, WITH THE PNE'S IN
THE BANK PERHAPS COMING FROM SCRAPPING OF SOME OBSOLETE
WEAPONS. ONLY PNE PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

3. JAPANESE EXPERT IMAI ASKED FOR FURTHER CLARIFI-
CATION OF US VIEWS ON DISTINGUISHABILITY OF PNE'S
USING SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY AND THOSE USING MORE
BASIC TECHNOLOGY. GIVAN SAID RESPONSE WOULD BE
PROVIDED AT NEXT INFORMAL MEETING (FRIDAY JULY 18). DALE

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